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STAT

# S. Korean Efforts to Influence Congress Date to Late '60s, Sen. Stevenson Says

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WASHINGTON—U.S. intelligence reports detail "a systematic effort" by South Korean agents to win influence in the U.S. Congress as far back as the late 1960s, the chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee said Thursday.

Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson (D-Ill.), who heads the ethics panel besides serving on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said in an interview that he had examined more than 100 pages of documents on the Korean scandal compiled by the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency.

"Congress was targeted, individuals were targeted (by the Koreans)," Stevenson said. "There were a lot of efforts that we would regard as immoral by our standards."

But Stevenson said reports he had seen so far contained no evidence that any U.S. senator had accepted South Korean money or favors. He refused to discuss the reported involvement of House members.

Stevenson's comments marked the first official discussion of the nature of American intelligence reports on the South Korean payoff scandal. He was interviewed shortly after he and other Ethics Committee members had met in closed session with CIA Director Stansfield Turner—the fifth session the panel has had with CIA and NSA officials.

Meanwhile, other congressional sources said that high officials of the Carter Administration had sought in vain to persuade the Seoul government to arrange the return from London of Korean lobbyist Tongsun Park. Park, a South Korean citizen, is a central figure in the Korean influence investigation here but has remained beyond the reach of U.S. subpoenas.

Alluding to those efforts, Atty. Gen. Griffin B. Bell told a news conference Thursday that "the highest diplomatic levels" were being used to obtain testimony from Park, who left Washington last fall.

Stevenson, interviewed in his office, said that the highly classified reports, which he refused to discuss in detail, had important bearing on the

Justice Department's criminal investigation and had been provided to the federal grand jury that is considering the Korean issue.

He said they indicated that South Koreans had tried "to establish relationships with Congress to promote the national security of their country and to further commercial opportunities."

Although characterizing many of these efforts as "immoral by our standards," Stevenson said, "You have to understand that these people have been living under the gun of a hostile power to the north. With that in mind, I didn't find their lobbying efforts were terribly sinister."

When asked if the reports showed that Park had distributed cash payments as an agent of the Seoul government, Stevenson refused to comment, saying it was a grand jury matter. He refused also to say whether the reports showed that U.S. intelligence agencies had obtained information by intercepting messages from the Blue House, the Korean presidential mansion in Seoul.

Noting that some intelligence reports on the scandal were eight or nine years old, he said the Intelligence Committee was investigating whether past White House or Justice Department officials had deliberately covered up the affair.

A report on that investigation is due within several weeks, according to committee sources.

Stevenson said he was uncertain why mainly Democratic members of the House of Representatives seemed to be involved in the scandal but no senators had been implicated.

"You have more people over there (in the House), so the chances of making mistakes are greater," he said. "On the other hand, maybe there was more caution over here."